



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE  
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD  
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273  
FEMA-1411-DR-VA  
Commonwealth Situation Report #19  
Wednesday, 12 June 2002**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

*1200 hours 5 June 2002 through 1200 hours 12 Jun 2002. (New information in italics)*

**2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

On 15 May 2002 Amendment No. 2 was made to the Major Disaster Declaration to include Individual Assistance for the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Cumberland, Greensville, Prince Edward, Shenandoah, and the independent City of Bedford.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Friday. The DFO will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Situation Reports will be published on Tuesdays for FEMA-1406-DR-VA, and Wednesdays for FEMA-1411-DR-VA.

**3. WEATHER:**

*Mostly cloudy with possible scattered showers and Thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80's, winds 10-20 MPH, chance of rain 50%. Lows at night in the 60's, chance of rain 40%*

**4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Remove obstacles to optimize debris removal.
- B. Expedite immediate housing needs and coordinate with long-term housing requirements.
- C. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.
- D. Resolve access problems for temporary housing.
- E. Manage expectations of disaster applicants
- F. Remove debris from public and private property.
- G. Maximize digital information systems while minimizing paper products.
- H. Acquire debris reduction site in Hurley.

**5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:****A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- Residents, requiring disaster assistance, are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

**DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS***Daily Report*

**Buchanan County DRC, Hurley Middle School, State Route 643, Hurley, VA**

**Opened 7 May 2002**

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
06/11	13	1	9	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	751	126	540	368	275	12	44	8	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	47

\*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- The Buchanan County Health Department will perform free testing of well water through mid-August 2002.
- Crisis Counseling Assistance and training Program (CCP). The Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning within the declaration area and providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing services as needed. The Immediate Services Program Grant application was submitted to FEMA and received approval for \$42,494 under the Immediate Services Program Grant provision of the CCP. CMCSB contact is Sherry Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator- O; 276-964-6703; C; 276-964-1682.
- Coordinator of State Recovery Task Force met with officials from Buchanan and Wise Counties regarding a local Disaster Recovery Task Force for their locality. A local committee was formed on 4 June and elected officers from a group of approx. 20 attendees. Their next meeting was held on 10 June to identify available resources.

- Anticipated Significant Activities: Continue DFO staffing and Support Coordination Activities. Continue working long-term housing issues. The DRC *reduced* operating hours to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning 7 June with only FEMA, SBA and USACE staffing.
- *The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 11 June 2002 follows:*

MASS CARE ACTIVITY		AS OF: COB: May 24, 2002	
Meals served since last report	1,459	Meals served to date	88,833
Shelters open as of report time	0	Total shelters open to date	6
Persons sheltered as of report time	0	Total persons sheltered to date	136
Service centers open as of report time	1	Total service center activations to date	1
Cases open	153	Total mental health contacts to date	127

OPR: OPS SECTION/HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

REGISTRATIONS & CONTACTS		AS OF: COB: June11, 2002		
	Since Last Report	Designated Counties/City	Undesignated Counties	Cumulative
Teleregistrations	3	1392/4	25	1421
HELPLINE Calls	27	-	-	1396

OPR: OPS SECTION/HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE		AS OF: COB: June11, 2002	
CLAIMS		SINCE LAST REPORT	TOTAL
Claims filed		11	19
Claims approved		11	17
Claims denied			2
Claims paid		9	14
Dollars disbursed		\$2,281	\$3,621

OPR: OPS SECTION/HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

DISASTER HOUSING PROGRAM		AS OF: COB: June11, 2002	
REGISTRATIONS		SINCE LAST REPORT	TOTAL
Registrations received		5	1238
Registrations approved		4	947
Registrations ineligible			231
Registrations withdrawn		-	41
Registrations pending		-1	18
Approved eligible amount		\$12,443	\$1,870,145
INSPECTIONS			
Issued for Inspection		2	1244
Inspections completed		4	1240
Inspections outstanding			4
Inspectors in Field		-2	2
ASSISTANCE CHECKS		AS OF: COB: June 11 2002	
Number recommended for issuance		54	1062
Dollar amount of above		\$76,404	\$2,100,662

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GRANT PROGRAM		AS OF: COB: June11, 2002	
REGISTRATIONS		SINCE LAST REPORT	TOTAL
Registrations received		4	766
Registrations received by the State		6	733
Registrations pending decision			34
Registrations eligible		-5	205
Approved eligible amount		-\$20,109	\$666,803
Registrations ineligible		3	477
Registrations withdrawn		-	17
Number of registrations disbursed		-29	195
		-\$74,798	\$610,460

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITY			AS OF: COB: June 11, 2002	
LOAN APPLICATIONS	HOME	BUSINESS	ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL)	TOTAL
Number issued	651	150	0	801
Number received	175	37	38	250
Number declined	71	15	2	88
Number withdrawn	21	9	24	54
Number approved	67	3	2	72
Dollars approved	\$1,248,300	\$184,300	\$87,700	\$1,520,300
Number pending	16	10	10	36

OPR: SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Disaster assistance to Buchanan County was expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications were accepted through 17 May 2002. A total of \$250,000 in Emergency Food Stamps was distributed.
- Thirty requests for travel trailers have been submitted. Three requests have been withdrawn. Twelve to sixteen travel trailers are now occupied. IA estimates that 30 travel trailers may be the maximum required. Travel trailers are being tied to existing utilities.
- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419, then identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and leave a callback number.

#### **B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- To date, total Public Assistance Project Worksheets valued at \$5,586,697 are eligible, \$3,635,186 has been obligated and \$577,593 is pending approval.
- The Corps contractor, DRC, continued removal of debris today from the Hurley area. To date, Project Worksheets valued at \$10,262 are eligible, \$7,696 has been obligated and \$0 is pending approval.
- All signatories are reviewing a draft Demolition Operations Plan among the Commonwealth of Virginia, the County of Buchanan, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dated 31 May 2002.
- In Hurley, there are currently 22 homes/buildings on the County Judge's list for potential demolition. Additional homes are being considered for demolition.
- 100% of the homes on the County Judge's demolition list are mobile homes.
- The Corps of Engineers can demolish houses destroyed or unable to be repaired.
- Project worksheets have been written and obligated for replacement of 16 County bridges at a cost of over \$1 million. Additionally, many private bridges are being constructed. To date 20% have been completed.
- To date, total Public Assistance for roads and bridges Project Worksheets valued at \$3,607,151 is eligible, \$2,176,411 has been obligated *and no funds are pending approval at this time.*

#### **C. Community Relations (CR):**

- *No VDEM CR field officers deployed today.*
- The Virginia Department of Emergency Management Regional Coordinator visited the Campbell/Bedford area 21 & 22 May.

- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in Blackey at the Blackey Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- R. Dameron (VDEM) met with P. Navesky (USACE) on 23 May to discuss the demolition procedures and reporting requirements to ensure that any demolition does not jeopardize a potential FEMA acquisition project. USACE, FEMA and VDEM have concurred on what is necessary.
- FEMA is currently conducting “targeted Mitigation surveys of the damaged structures in the Buchanan County area (1411). VDEM has requested and was verbally assured that the information provided in the FEMA surveys (if totally completed) can be utilized to support a benefit/cost analysis as required for acquisition of structures.
- Buchanan County has received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund alternate housing for residents who cannot rebuild. HM and IA staffs are monitoring progress of project for possible assistance opportunities. HMGP funding can be used to support CDBG projects.
- Possible NFIP compliance issues, with the demolition of structures are currently being coordinated between USACE, FEMA and VDEM.
- *Visited Buchanan County on 11 June to respond to NFIP compliance issues and citizen requests. Measured Hurley leased USPO building to do substantial damage estimate.*
- *Plan to revisit MFIP compliance and program delivery with Buchanan County during follow-up in Fall 2002.*

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- *Recovery update news release 10 June 2002. Summary of figures and activities for 1411 to date.*
- Monday, Disaster unemployment deadline of 10 June reminder news release. Draft news release for Disaster Unemployment Assistance received at DFO Wise.
- *News release, ‘last chance reminder’ relating to debris removal in Hurley area.*
- *News release on 7 June urging residents affected by disaster to return of SBA packets.*
- *News release on 11 June regarding deadline of 5 July for registration for disaster assistance.*
- *Michael Cline, VDEM Director and SCO was interviewed on 11 June by VNN radio reporter, Matt Demlein, concerning funds allocated in area designated disasters.*

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- No current activity to report.

**G. Hazardous Materials:**

- Recovery and Disposal has been completed.
- 48 propane containers have been disposed of, 743 tanks and containers, 36 auto gas tanks; 69 water tanks/heaters; 8 freon tanks; 12 cylinders; 60 batteries; 1

sandblaster; 4 kerosene heaters; 28 gas cans; 3 fuel pumps; 30 transformers/capacitors; 800 gals of fuel disposed.

- The hazmat command post in Hurley is closed.

RAB

12 June 2002

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**Michael M. Cline, SCO**